

A NEW SPECIES OF *DARWINIA* (MYRTACEAE) FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Darwinia*, *Darwinia terricola* Keighery (Myrtaceae) from the Blackwood Plateau, Western Australia is described.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation and its predecessors has undertaken intensive floristic and reserve surveys of the Swan Coastal Plain (Gibson *et al.* 1994 and Keighery 1999). Currently these are being extended to the adjacent Blackwood Plateau and a detailed floristic survey of inter-zone between these areas, the Whicher Range, has been completed (Keighery *et al.* 2008).

A series of newly collected and newly recognised taxa are being located during these surveys and are currently being described. The Blackwood Plateau is no exception to the location of new taxa, especially in a series of very unusual shallow soil clay flats and seasonal ironstone wetlands. These habitats contain ap-

parently new taxa of *Grevillea*, *Hovea*, *Logania* and *Darwinia*. These taxa, like this new *Darwinia*, appear to have close relatives on the Whicher Scarp or Jarrah Forest.

TAXONOMY

Darwinia terricola Keighery
species nova

Frutex effusus vel prostrates.
Foliis linearis, rectis, 4–9 mm
longi, minus quam 1 mm latus,
corporae oleosa non prominens,
marginalis ciliatus.

Typus: 2.7 kilometres along
Crouch Road from Great North
Road, 34° 01.222'S 115° 32.468'E,
21-Nov.-2008, G.J. & B.J. Keighery
1423 (Holotype: PERTH).

A low spreading to prostrate
shrub to 20 cm tall by 30 cm
wide, multi-stemmed from a
woody base. Leaves linear,

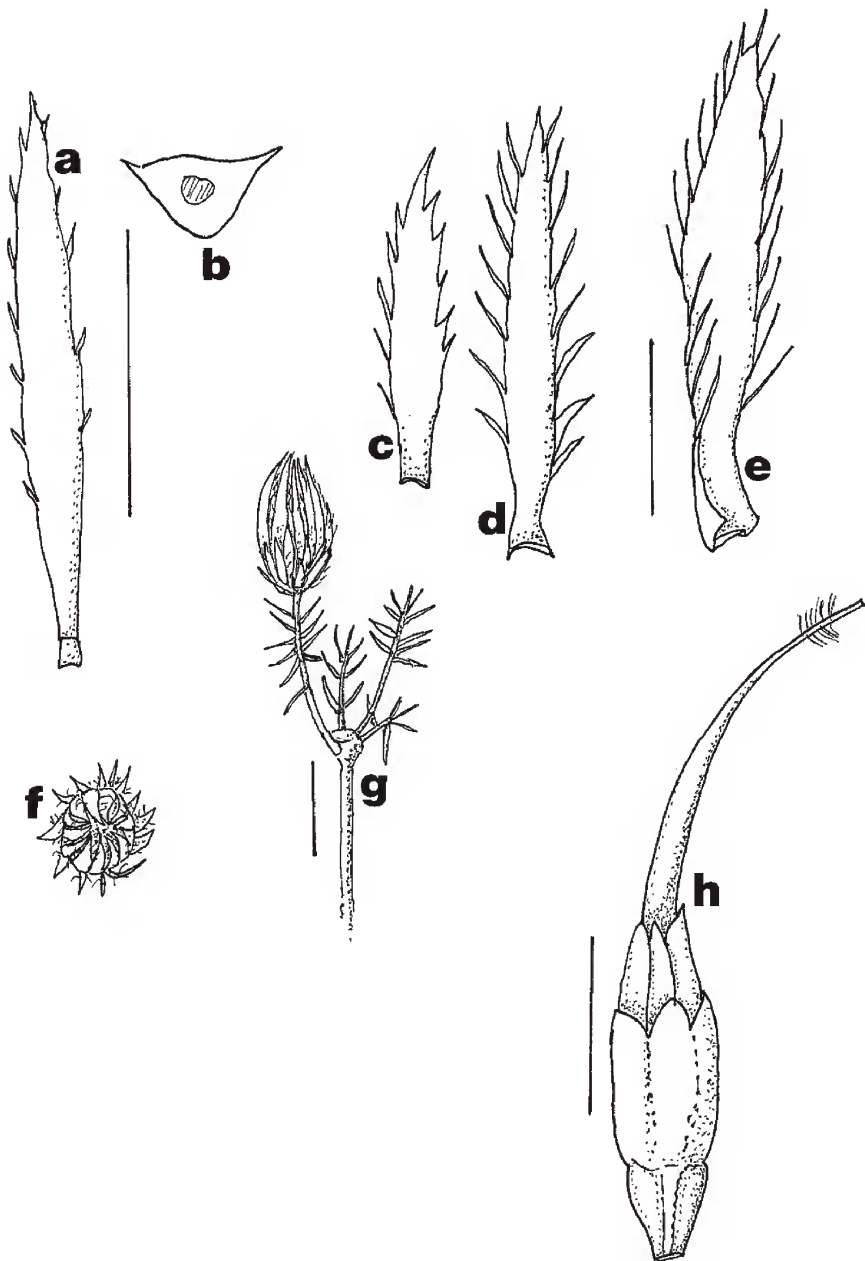


Figure 1. *Darwinia terricola*. a: Leaf, b: cross section of leaf, c: outermost floral bract, d: outer floral bract, e: innermost floral bract, f: top view of inflorescence, g: inflorescence, h: flower. Scale bars: a,c,d,e,& h =5mm, g =10 mm.

triangular in outline, green, crowded to scattered at ends of branches, not recurved, 4–9 mm long, less than 0.7 mm wide, oil glands not prominent, scattered cilia on sides. Inflorescence not nodding or erect, rather lying on the ground or on foliage to 17–18 mm wide and 10–12 mm long with 5–7 (rarely 9) flowers. Inflorescence bracts at first leaf like, in outline and colour, although longer at 9–13 mm long, then in several rows, reddish green, linear to narrowly ovate, 13–20 mm long with an expanded base to 2 mm wide, and coarsely ciliate along the margins, enclosing the flowers. Each flower base enclosed by two floral bracteoles, narrowly-ovate, strongly keeled translucent, brown, margins fringed, linear, 4–5 mm long. Floral tube brown, ribbed, 3–4 mm long, with 5 ridges. Calyx lobes, white, translucent, ovate, margins erose, c. 1 mm long. Petals white, margin entire, ca 2 mm long. Stamens ca. 1.2 mm long, filament linear, scarcely adnate at base to adjacent staminodes. Staminodes similar to stamens but slightly shorter. Style curved, 11–12 mm long, white, sub-stigmatic hairs in a ring below stigma, 1.5 mm wide.

Collections examined. 13.9 km east of Great North road on Crouch Road, 27-Sept.-2009, G.J. & B.J. Keighery 1623 (PERTH); 10 km east of Sues Road on Crouch road, 6-Dec.-2006, M. Spencer 149 (PERTH); Crouch Road, 19-Sept.-2005, R.J. Cranfield & B.G. Ward

891(PERTH); 5.4 km west of Jalbarragup Road on Crouch Road, 17-Jan.-1997, P. Ellery & A. Annels B54.7 (PERTH).

Etymology. Terricola, dwelling on the ground, a reference to this species preference for an unusual soil type and an allusion to its habit of lying and flowering on the ground.

Habitat. Occurs on shallow sandy clay over granite, in winter damp flats under a Mallee shrubland dominated by *Eucalyptus marginata*. This community is probably confined to the Blackwood Plateau.

Conservation Status. The entire known range of the species is in State Forest and proposed National Park. However, it does occur in a very restricted specialised habitat.

Comments. Related to *Darwinia oederoides*, a widespread species of the Jarrah Forest. It differs from *D. oederoides* in the small thin ciliate leaves, small inflorescences, and the longer curved style.

Flowering Time. Flowers in late spring to early summer, November to December.

Common Name. Blackwood Bell.

Notes. Plants are killed by fire. Response to dieback disease (*Phytophthora*) is unknown.

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